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Choice Near On Deputy To McCone

Whether the Deputy Director of the Central Intelligence Agency should be a civilian or a military officer has been widely debated in the Administration and on Capitol Hill in the last few weeks.

President Kennedy and John A. McCone, the new CIA director, were reported yesterday near a decision on the question, which was publicly raised when the Senate considered McCone's nomination to succeed Alfred W. Dulles.

The law says that if the CIA director is a military officer the deputy director shall be a civilian. It does not say that if the director is a civilian the deputy director shall be an officer, but several Senators said that was the Congressional intent.

Chairman Richard B. Russell (D-Ga.) of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Sen. Stuart Symington (D-Mo.) and Sen. Prescott Bush (R-Conn.) said they thought an officer should succeed to the post vacated Jan. 31 by the retirement of Gen. C. P. Cabell as CIA's deputy director.

In the hearings, McCone committed himself to the fact he would select a suitable man. He recommended from the Chiefs of Staff and the civilian members of the Administration.

McCone has accepted the resignation of Richard M. Goodwin as deputy director for operations and named Richard M. Goodwin as assistant director for operations.

Blair was the first of the CIA's top officials to be named.

Blair was a private in the 1st Cavalry Division during World War II and was with CIA since 1946.

After the war he was at St. David's, Pa., and a graduate of Williams College.

Before the war he was a newspaperman, first at the United Press, then at the Washington Times.

Blair was a member of the CIA's top officials to be named.